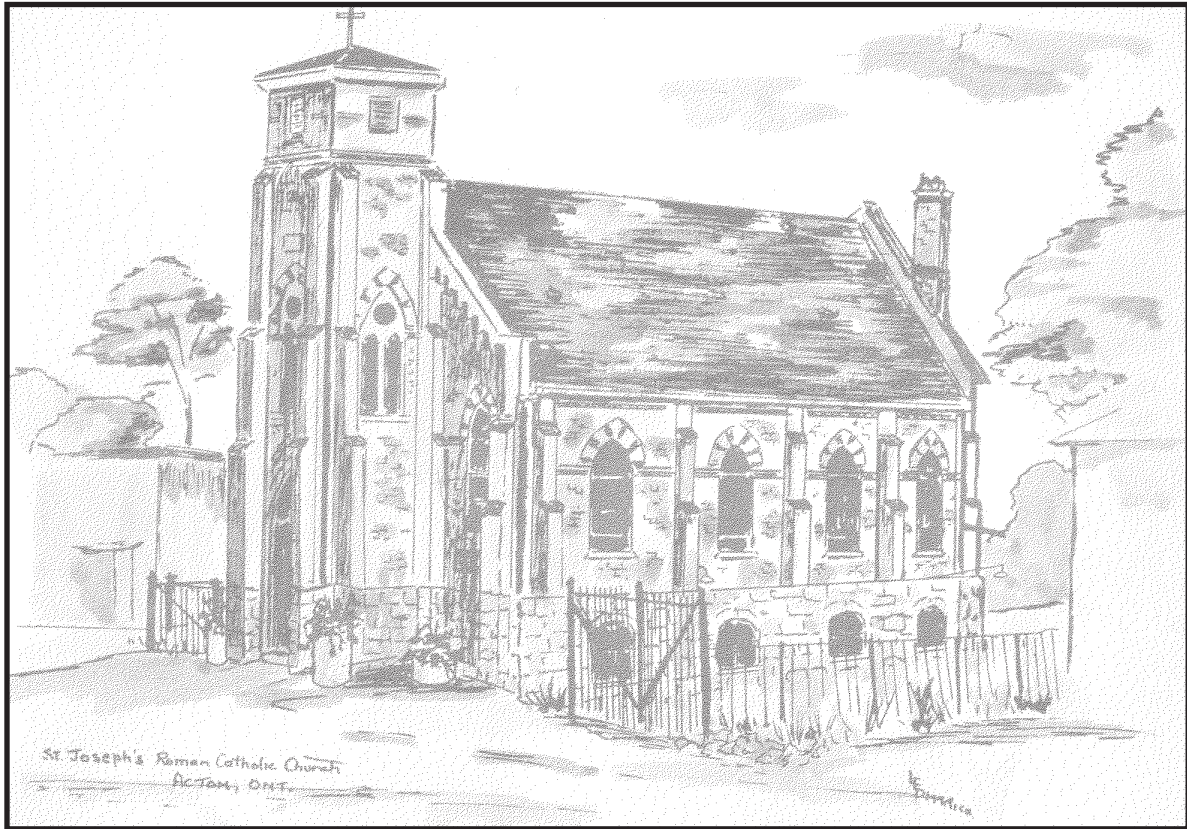


# St. Joseph Patron of Canada Parish

64 Church St. E., Acton, ON  
Office

39 John St. S. Acton, ON, L7J 2A8 Tel: 519-853-0784 Fax: 519-853-5941  
e-mail: stjoseph.church@bellnet.ca



Fr. Mark Sullivan, Pastor  
Janet Raats, Office Administrator

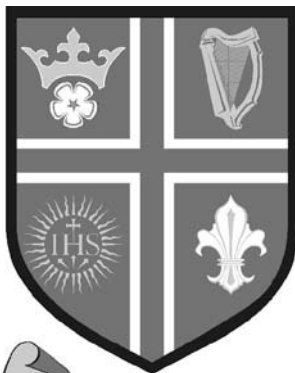
Office Hours: Tues. & Wed. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, Fri. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

## SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday 5:00 pm  
Sunday 9:00 am  
11:00 am

## PARISH ORGANIZATIONS:

Catholic Women's League  
Knights of Columbus  
St. Vincent Charities



## BAPTISMS:

By arrangement with the pastor.

## MARRIAGES:

By arrangement one year in advance.

## CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 4:00 - 4:30 pm  
or by appointment.

## SCHOOLS:

St. Joseph 519-853-3730  
Christ the King 905-702-8838

## WELCOME TO NEW PARISHIONERS

We invite you to register in our parish community  
by filling in a blue registration form.

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## A Word From Our Pastor:

**W**ith the image of leprosy being shown in the Gospel of this weekend, I thought it would be a good opportunity to talk about St. Damien of Molokai.

Most Catholics would know him simply as Father Damien. He was born in Belgium on January 3, 1840. He was ordained as a priest in 1864. Like Saint John Viannney, the Patron Saint of Priests, his superiors did not think much of Father Damien's vocation to priesthood. They basically thought that he was not smart enough to be a priest, but they finally decided to allow him to be ordained.

What surprised his superiors was that he asked to be sent to the leper colony of Kalaupapa on the island of Molokai. His brother was also a priest and he had become ill serving at the leper colony. Father Damien wanted to take his place.

When Father Damien arrived on the island, there were 600 lepers. Without doctors or nurses, Father Damien was the only one to give them comfort. He offered them religion, but also gave as much medical attention and comfort as he could. He dressed their sores, helped them build cottages, and went so far as to dig their graves and make their coffins.

The lepers responded to his sacrifice for them. Within six months, Father Damien had 400 catechumens. After 12 years, on April 15, 1889, Father Damien died of the disease as well. The last picture of him was as he lay dying on the floor with only a straw mattress, a pillow, and a single blanket to keep him warm.

For someone of whom little was expected, Father Damien's death was announced throughout the world and there was a National Day of Mourning throughout the Kingdom of Hawaii. He was canonized as a saint by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009. Saint Father Damien is the patron saint of lepers and of outcasts.

Father Damien's decision to go and serve the lepers of Molokai led him to die at the age of 49, however, by doing this, Father Damien imitated the healing Jesus came to offer. This is

self-sacrifice which we are called to imitate as well in our lives.

Saint Father Damien shamed not only an island nation into helping its sick, but he also moved a world as well. As Lent approaches, let us remember to reach out to those who need healing. Let us make a 'leap' of faith in growing closer to God and praising Him in our lives.

*Fr. Mark*

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### THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

"Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. So, if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ear to others, you open God's ear to yourself."

-- St. Peter Chrysologus

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### PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

This week please pray especially for:

***Eileen Quackenbush,  
Jasmine Lang, Juanita Malysa***



This week we pray especially for the following families:

***Montgomery, Munday, Needham,  
Nelles, Niedielska, Nieroda***

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**Tax Receipts** can be found at the back of the church. Please pick them up as soon as possible and help us avoid paying for postage!

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**STEP/BLENDED FAMILY: SMART STEPS FOR BUILDING FAMILY** Are you a parent or stepparent adjusting to blended family life? Smart Steps offers practical insights and suggestions on how to make the relationships work well for all. The next session will be held at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph, 28 Norfolk Street. **TIME:** 9:15AM - 3:30PM. **PRICE:** \$50 per person (includes lunch). **DATE:** Saturday, March 9, 2024. Register online at [hamiltondiocese.com](http://hamiltondiocese.com) and look under Upcoming Events. For more information, contact the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

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FEBRUARY 11, 2024

DAY & TIME	MASS INTENTIONS (February 12 - February 18)	REQUESTED BY:
Tues 7:00 p.m.	<i>Intentions of Ronnie Lampkin</i>	CWL
Wed. 9:00 a.m.	Lenten Intentions of Our Parish	
7:00 p.m.	Marilyn Koehler	
Thurs. 7:00 p.m.	<i>Intentions of Janina Bawol</i>	Wajda Family
Fri. 9:00 a.m.	<i>Intentions of Iwona Kwiatkowska</i>	Kwiatkowski Family
Sat. 5:00 p.m.	Paul Hutchison	Janet Raats
Sun. 9:00 a.m.	<i>Special Intentions of the Following Knights of Columbus: John Nother, Paul Kavanagh, Jos Bosboom, Bill McGrath, and Wayne Montgomery</i>	Knights of Columbus 8050
Sun. 11:00 a.m.	Pro populo	



Sat. Feb 17 5 p.m. Lector Maria  
 Extraordinary Minister Nancy  
 Sun. Feb 18 9 a.m. Lector Andrew  
 Extraordinary Minister Ann  
 11 a.m. Lector Lorin  
 Extraordinary Minister Lar



**CONTACT PERSONS for CWL and K of C**

Anyone interested in learning more about our parish Catholic Women's League or Knights of Columbus is invited to call the appropriate contact person:

CWL: Christie deSouza: 519-400-6012 [cwl@lartist.com](mailto:cwl@lartist.com)

K of C: Ian Nolan: [grand.knight.8050@gmail.com](mailto:grand.knight.8050@gmail.com)

**MEETINGS**

Mon. 6:00 p.m. Tops  
 Tues. 7:00 p.m. CWL  
 Wed. 8:00 p.m. Acton Sharing Group

**Stations of the Cross will be said on Fridays in Lent at 5:00 p.m. There will not be Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.**

**Lenten Lunches:** This year the Lenten Lunches will take place at the ROXY CENTRE every Wednesday from February 14 to March 27 inclusive – beginning at 12 noon with a 20/30-minute service followed by a soup and sandwich lunch.

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CWL Membership drive has now started. Membership fees are \$40.00 for 2024. There was a misprint on the envelopes that advised the fee was \$30.00. If you have already paid \$30, please drop a plain envelope addressed to the CWL Executive into the collection plate with the additional \$10.00 and include your name. We apologize for the error. If you have not paid, please drop your annual membership fee of \$40.00 in an envelope with your name and information. Thank you.





**Knights of Columbus**

St. Joseph's Council #8050  
Ilan Nolan, Grand Knight  
Decio Ramalho  
**519-856-2753**



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Certified Financial Planner  
**273 Queen St. 519-853-4855**  
daniel.varanelli@manulifesecurities.ca

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**Catholic Women's League**



of St. Joseph's invites the ladies of the Parish to our regular meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

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